

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 170363

42

ORIGIN IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-06 AGR-05 OIC-02 EB-07 AID-05 IGA-01

OES-03 SS-15 SP-02 L-03 H-02 NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 ARA-06 EA-06

EUR-12 NEA-10 /116 R

DRAFTED BY:IO/AGR:PBYRNES

APPROVED BY:S:THE SECRETARY

P:UNDER SECRETARY SISCO

EB/OFP:JAPLACKE

IO:WBBUFFUM

E:UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON

AF:N DAVIS

S/S:GSSPRINGSTEAN

ANALYST NOTE:CORRECTED FOR OMISSION OF POST.

----- 128889

R 182310Z JUL 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652:

TAGS:FAO, UNWFC

SUBJECT:SENEGALESE PARTICIPATION IN FIRST WORLD FOOD COUNCIL

JUNE 23-27, ROME

1. LARGELY BECAUSE OF LDC BICKERING OVER THE COMPETENCE OF THE SECRETARIAT AND A PROPOSED SET OF RULES OF PROCEDURE,
 - THE NEWLY ESTABLISHED WORLD FOOD COUNCIL MADE ONLY SCANT
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PAGE 02 STATE 170363

PROGRESS IN ITS FIRST SESSION. THE COUNCIL, AS EMBASSY WILL

RECALL, WAS THE PRINCIPAL OUTGROWTH OF THE NOVEMBER 1974 WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE. ALTHOUGH THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES STAND MOST TO BENEFIT FROM THIS HIGH LEVEL COORDINATING-ADVISORY BODY, THEY ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ALMOST COMPLETE LACK OF PROGRESS.

2. IN GENERAL THEY USED COMPLAINTS ABOUT DOCUMENTATION AND THE LACK OF ADEQUATE INTERPRETATION (TO HANDLE CAUCUS GROUPS) AS THE BASIS FOR CALLING FOR THE OUSTER OF WHAT THEY CHARGED WAS AN INCOMPETENT AND UNREPRESENTATIVE SECRETARIAT. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE MAIN FOCUS WAS THE REMOVAL OF DR. JOHN HANNAH (FORMER DIRECTOR OF AID) WHO WAS APPOINTED AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COUNCIL BY UN SECRETARY-GENERAL WALDHEIM.

3. ALTHOUGH NOT A MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL, SENEGAL, IN THE

PERSON OF AMBASSADOR SIDI MOHAMMED DIOURY, SENECALESE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE FAO, SUCCEEDED IN SPEAKING FREQUENTLY AS AN OBSERVER AND WAS THE PRINCIPAL CRITIC AND LEADER OF THE GROUP OF 77 ON THIS ISSUE. THE AMBASSADOR WAS SO VEHEMENT IN HIS ATTACK THAT AT ONE POINT HE CHARGED THE PAKISTANI CHAIRMAN OF THE GROUP OF 77 (WHO SPOKE ONLY AS CHAIRMAN) WITH BETRAYING THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN HIS REPORT ON THE G-77 CAUCUS BY NOT MAKING A STRONG, MORE SPECIFIC PRESENTATION. THERE SEEMED LITTLE DOUBT THAT DIOURY WAS LARGELY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEGREE OF ABUSE DIRECTED AT THE SECRETARIAT.

4. EMBASSY SHOULD INFORM THE GOS OF OUR EXTREME DIS-PLEASURE OVER THE CONDUCT OF AMBASSADOR DIOURY AND OUR REGRET THAT THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL, WHICH HOLDS SO MUCH PROMISE FOR THE DEVELOPING NATIONS, WAS UNABLE TO MOVE AHEAD. WE THINK IT IS UNREASONABLE TO EXPECT MINISTERS TO DEVOTE TIME AND EFFORT TO IMPROVING THE CRITICAL WORLD FOOD SITUATION AND YET BE FACED WITH DISRUPTIVE, ILL-CONCEIVED ACTIONS IN INTERNATIONAL FORA. IN OUR VIEW, THE CONDUCT OF AMBASSADOR DIOURY WAS PARTICULARLY DEPLORABLE IN VIEW OF THE CORDIAL AND COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP THAT HAS LONG EXISTED BETWEEN US AND SENEGAL, REINFORCED BY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRESIDENT SENGHOR'S RECENT VISIT TO US AND CALL ON PRESIDENT FORD. THE GLOBAL FOOD PROGRAM DEPENDS UPON COOPERATION AND CONSTRUCTIVE PROGRESS. IF THE GOS DELEGATION ACCURATELY REFLECTED THE VIEWPOINT OF ITS GOVERNMENT, USG WOULD CONCLUDE THAT GOS IS NOT INTERESTED IN THE GLOBAL FOOD PROGRAM. IF THIS IS NOT THE CASE, USG BELIEVES IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR GOS REPRESENTATIVE

AT FUTURE MEETINGS TO BE INSTRUCTED ACCORDINGLY IN THE
INTEREST OF SOLVING THIS IMPORTANT GLOBAL PROBLEM THROUGH
COOPERATION RATHER THAN CONFRONTATION. FYI: DIOURY HAS
BEEN TROUBLESOME IN PREVIOUS FAO AND WFP MEETINGS, AND
WE BELIEVE THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT THAT HE ACTS WITHOUT
GUIDANCE ON MOST ISSUES. END FYI.

5. WOULD APPRECIATE REPORT ON APPROACH AND REACTION OF
GOS. SIMILAR PROTESTS ARE BEING SENT TO GUINEA AND
BANGLADESH. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE, MEETINGS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE170363
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: IO/AGR:PJBVRNES
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750250-0813
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750741/aaaabkib.tel
Line Count: 125
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 JUN 2003 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <15 OCT 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ENEGALESE PARTICIPATION IN FIRST WORLD FOOD COUNCIL JUNE 23-27, ROME
TAGS: PFOR, EAGR, US, SG, FAO, WFC
To: DAKAR
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006